

Claims

1 1. An automated system to provide comprehensive meeting
2 planning services for multiple clients via a communications network, the
3 system comprising:

4 a client interface for mediating communications via the communication
5 network between the client and the automated system;

6 a meeting management module for collecting and analyzing data
7 pertinent to a prospective meeting; and

8 a database for storing the collected data.

1 2. The automated system of claim 1, wherein the meeting
2 management module further comprises one or more servers.

1 3. The automated system of claim 1, wherein the communications
2 network further comprises the Internet.

1 4. The automated system of claim 1, further comprising a research
2 module for generation of industry and meeting information related to meeting
3 planning.

1 5. The automated system of claim 1, further comprising a reporting
2 module for report generation related to the prospective meeting.

1 6. The automated system of claim 1, further comprising an event
2 module for managing events related to the prospective meeting.

1 7. The automated system of claim 1, further comprising an
2 attendee module for managing logistics related to one or more meeting
3 attendees.

1 8. The automated system of claim 1, further comprising a
2 marketplace module to manage interactions between a client and a supplier.

1 9. The automated system of claim 1, further comprising a
2 community module to facilitate communications between clients via the
3 communications network.

1 10. The automated system of claim 1, further comprising a
2 customization module to facilitate client preference profiles.

1 11. The automated system of claim 1, further comprising a service
2 module to provide real-time communication via the communications network
3 between the client and the meeting planning services provider.

1 12. An automated system for comprehensive meeting planning via
2 the Internet for multiple clients, the automated system comprising:

a web server for mediating communications between the client and the automated system;

a request generator for collecting data pertinent to a prospective meeting;

a database for storing the collected data; and

at least one application server associated with the web server and the database, the application server having:

a meeting management module for analyzing the collected data and executing arrangements for the prospective meeting based on the analysis of the collected data;

a research module for generation of industry and meeting information related to meeting planning;

a reporting module for report generation related to the prospective meeting;

an event module for managing events related to the prospective meeting;

an attendee module for managing logistics related to one or more meeting attendees;

a marketplace module to manage interactions between a client and a supplier;

a community module to facilitate communications between clients via the communications network;

a customization module to facilitate client preference profiles; and

26 a service module to provide real-time communication via the
27 communications network between the client and the meeting planning services
28 provider.

1 13. The automated system of claim 12, further comprising a secure
2 login system and secure client-specific accounts.

1 14. An automated method for providing comprehensive meeting
2 planning and management services for multiple clients via a communications
3 network, the method comprising the steps of:

4 providing a client interface for mediating communications via the
5 communication network between the client and a service provider;

6 collecting data pertinent to a prospective meeting;

7 storing the collected data in a repository;

8 analyzing the data to determine client preferences and meeting criteria;

9 and

10 scheduling the meeting according to the client preferences and the
11 meeting criteria.

1 15. The automated method of claim 14, further comprising the step
2 of establishing a client-specific account for each client.

1 16. The automated method of claim 14, further comprising the step
2 of conducting online research based on client-supplied criteria and producing
3 the results of the research.

1 17. The automated method of claim 14, further comprising the step
2 of generating multiple reports.

1 18. The automated method of claim 14, further comprising the step
2 of providing a project management tool to facilitate management of details
3 related to one or more of the following group: travel arrangements, events, and
4 activities.

1 19. The automated method of claim 14, further comprising the step
2 of providing an interactive online communication tool to facilitate
3 communications between clients.

1 20. The automated method of claim 14, further comprising the step
2 of providing a transaction forum for the clients and suppliers.